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Date October 1, 2002 Label No. EV178735078US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

Dawn M. Berry  
Name (Print)

Dawn M. Berry  
Signature

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: BROWN et al. )

Application No.: 10/047,440 )

Group Art Unit: 1754

Filed: January 14, 2002 )

Examiner: Unassigned

For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING NIOBIUM AND TANTALUM COMPOUNDS

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

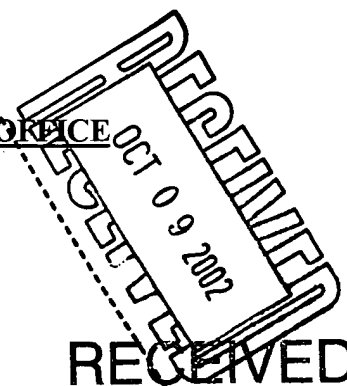
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

October 1, 2002

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Except for the documents enclosed, the remaining documents are of record in parent Application No. 08/542,286, filed October 12, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 6,338,832 B1. In accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609, it is not necessary to provide copies of those documents with this filing which is being submitted before issuance of an Office Action and before any Notice of Allowance.

The above information is presented so that the PTO can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the document cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to



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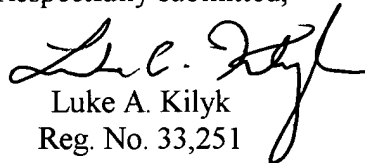
issue therefrom.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "prior art." If the Examiner applies the document as prior art against any claim in this application and applicant determines that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the document.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

It is believed that no fee is required to make this a complete and timely filing. However, if it is determined that a petition or fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee associated with this statement to our Deposit Account No. 03-0060 and please consider this a petition.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Luke A. Kilyk  
Reg. No. 33,251

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Enclosures: PTO-1449 and Copy of 1 document